

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:WLGALLAGHER:RLW
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O 232231Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131411

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM COLBERT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, BP

SUBJECT: SOLOMON ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES

1. FOLLOWING IS CURRENT STATUS OF PLANS FOR SOLOMON ISLANDS (GSI) INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY.
2. AIR FORCE PLANE WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON AT NOON ON JULY 3 EN ROUTE TO OTIS AFB TO PICK UP KENNEDY FAMILY. PLANE WILL THEN PROCEED TO HONOLULU WHERE PARTY WILL SPEND THE NIGHT. PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN HONIARA ON JULY 5 (CROSSING DATELINE).
3. RETURNING, USDEL WILL LEAVE HONIARA THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 8, OVERNIGHT IN PORT MORESBY, AND DEPART PORV MORESBY MORNING OF JULY 9.

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PARTY WILL ARRIVE ANDREWS EVENING OF JULY 9.

4. WHITE HOUSE HAS PROMISED SENATOR KENNEDY 17 SPACES ON BOARD USN SHIPS AT HONIARA. THIS WILL INCLUDE TEN FAMILY AND SEVEN SURVIVORS OF PT 109. JOHN MCCORMALLY AND HIS WIFE WILL BE HOUSED AT MEDANA HOTEL IN HONIARA. OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY WILL BE QUARTERED IN PRIVATE

HOMES

5. ONE PROBLEM WE FACE WITH SHIPS IS THAT NAVY HAS SCHEDULED THEM TO ARRIVE IN HONIARA ON JULY 6. SINCE CEREMONIES BEGIN ON JULY 5 AND US DEL ARRIVING THAT DAY, SHIPS SHOULD BE IN PORT ON JULY 5. NAVY RELUCTANT TO SPEED UP ARRIVAL SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN DEPARTURE FROM US PORT ON A SUNDAY, DEPRIVING CREW OF WEEKEND WITH FAMILIES. WE HAVE ASKED NSC TO REQUEST NAVY PROVIDE FOR JULY 5 ARRIVAL AT HONIARA.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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